

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Equine Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Centre Broxmead Lane
Bolney, West Sussex**

NGR: 526686 124086

Planning Ref: WSCC/077/11/BK

**ASE Project No: 5667
Site Code: ERP12**

**ASE Report No: 2014010
OASIS id: archaeol6-168094**



By Catherine Douglas

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the Equine Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Centre Broxmead Lane, Bolney, West Sussex NGR: 526686, 124086.

No significant archaeological findings were made. A ditch-like feature was encountered in the north-east end of the site, but it was unclear whether this was a man-made ditch or a natural feature. Two palaeochannels were encountered in the southern end of the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the Equine Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Centre Broxmead Lane, Bolney, West Sussex NGR: 526686,124086 (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is bounded to by the A23 to the west and Broxmead Lane to the south and surrounded by fields and woodland to the north and east.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2012) of the area the site lies on Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand - Sandstone and Siltstone, Interbedded bedrock geology. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 132 to 137 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning consent was granted by West Sussex County Council (Planning Consent: WSCC/077/11/BK) with an archaeological condition amongst other conditions. Condition 27 stated:

Prior to the commencement of development, the developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that shall be submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority.

Reason: to ensure that potential archaeological remains on the site will be adequately recorded.

- 1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2012) for an archaeological watching brief was prepared in September 2012 and submitted to The Senior Archaeologist, WSCC (John Mills) for approval on behalf of Environmental Assessment Services Ltd in advance of the commencement of any intrusive construction ground works. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 In general, the aim of the watching brief was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.

- 1.4.2 The watching brief also aimed to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report presents the findings from the archaeological watching brief carried out between the 17th-24th January 2013.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed works are in an area of archaeological interest.
- 2.2 Late Saxon timber causeways are known to exist across Bolney Street some 500m SW of the site. Here at approximately NGR 526139, 123040, waterlogged oak timbers were found in March 1948. A dendrochronology date for the timbers gave a Late Saxon felling date of AD972/973. The timbers are thought to be part of a causeway which carried the road across a stream and stream valley. These are likely to be in the vicinity of a spring-fed pond to the southwest of the present-day Recreation Ground. A stone-lined gully was also recorded immediately to the north of the timbers. This probably carried the pond overflow across Bolney Street. Both the timbers and the gully were recorded at depths of 1.35 – 1.65 (ASE 2012).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil at the site.
- 3.1.2 The monitored area measured a length of 650m by a width of 225m. A haul road to the east measuring a length of 100m by a width of 5m was also monitored.
- 3.1.3 All hand and machine excavations undertaken by the ground work contractor were undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.
- 3.1.4 Overburden deposits (e.g. demolition material, modern made ground) were removed and excavation continued to the surface of the natural geology whereupon several archaeological features were exposed. Care was taken not to machine off seemingly homogenous layers that might have been the upper parts of archaeological features.
- 3.1.4 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.1.5 The exposed areas were left open to allow for any potential weathering-out of features to occur. Linear features were sample-sectioned to determine their character.
- 3.1.6 All encountered deposits were recorded on standard ASE recording sheets and a full digital photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed two local museums prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and are awaiting a response. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	17
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Photographs	47

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 3 and 4)

4.0.1 All excavations were taken to a depth of 0.45m below the topsoil surface level. All contexts encountered during the watching brief are summarised in Table 2, below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Topsoil	650	225	0.30
02	Layer	Sandy clay geology	-	-	-
03	Layer	Alluvium	12.00	6.00	-
04	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.00	0.80	0.25
05	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.00	0.80	0.25
06	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.00	1.12	0.49
07	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.00	1.12	0.49
08	Layer	Subsoil	100	50	0.10 - 0.30
09	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.00	0.80	0.35
10	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.00	0.80	0.35
11	Cut	Palaeochannel	>1.00	0.60	0.11
12	Fill	Palaeochannel fill	>1.00	0.60	0.11
13	Layer	Alluvial deposit	12.00	6.00	0.10
14	Cut	Palaeochannel	40	0.80	0.16
15	Fill	Palaeochannel fill	>1.00	0.80	0.16
16	Layer	Subsoil / alluvium	>100	>5.00	0.10-0.50
17	Layer	Sandy clay natural	-	-	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.0.2 The geology [02] was encountered approximately 0.45m below the topsoil surface level, at 4.38m AOD in the northern end of the excavation area. This was a sandy orange-blue mottled clay, but contained a greater concentration of sand and frequent sandstone inclusions in the haul road area. A large quantity of burnt tree throws were identified in the south end of the site, but no discreet features or finds were identified.

4.0.3 A ditch [04][06][09] was identified in the north-east end of the site, on a roughly north-south axis. Three sondages were excavated at regular intervals, which revealed a roughly U-shaped profile with slightly irregular sides in [06]. The base undulated with a depth ranging from 0.25-0.49m below the topsoil surface level.

4.0.4 It is unclear whether [04][06][09] is a man-made ditch or a natural feature. A single silty sand fill was encountered throughout the feature. This contained no finds or charred remains.

4.0.5 Two probable palaeochannels [11] and [14] were encountered in the southern end of the excavation area. Both were of a similar size and depth and containing a single blue-grey silty clay. Palaeochannel [11] measured 0.60m wide with a depth of 0.11m. Palaeochannel [14] was 0.80m wide and 0.16m deep. Both features appeared to very gently diminish, with no clear termini visible. No finds were encountered in either feature.

- 4.0.6 Two separate areas of layers of clay [03] and [13] were encountered overlying the natural substrate [02]. Both measured c. 12m x 6m x 0.10m thick. It is probable that both were alluvially deposited and resulted from areas of waterlogging occurring in shallower areas of the field. Pot sherds dating to the late 19th to mid-20th century were encountered in layer [03].
- 4.0.7 In the area of the haul road, a layer of sand clay subsoil [08] c. 0.10m thick immediately overlay the sandy clay geology. The subsoil in the haul road area [16] was much thicker in the centre of the field, with a thickness of 0.50m.
- 4.0.8 The subsoil was immediately overlain by a layer of topsoil [01] c. 0.30m across the whole monitored area.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small finds assemblage was recovered from context [3]. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. Packaging and storage was carried out following IFA guidelines (2008). No further conservation is required. The assemblage is too small to be of potential for further analysis. No further work is required and the finds are recommended for discard.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
3	3	64	2	428
Total	3	64	2	428

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered just three sherds of pottery from the site, all coming from context [3]. The assemblage consists of a 9g bodysherd of glazed red earthenware, a 16g fragment from a blue transfer-printed ware plate with floral pattern and a 40g sherd from a refined whiteware Keiller marmalade jar. Taken together a deposition date between c. 1875 and 1925 can be suggested.

5.3 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.3.1 Two pieces were recovered. Included is a cobalt blue vessel fragment of uncertain form, dated to the late 19th to mid 20th century. A complete colourless cylindrical bottle (height 216mm) with "SEYMOUR'S SHERBORNE" embossed on the body was also found and dates to the first half of the 20th century.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.0.1 Sandy clay geology was encountered at 4.38m AOD.
- 6.0.2 A ditch was encountered in the north-east end of the site, on a roughly north-south axis with regular sides but an undulating base. It is unclear whether this was a man-made ditch or whether it was a natural feature. No finds were retrieved from the single fill.
- 6.0.3 Two palaeochannels were encountered in the southern end of the site. These were shallow features with ephemeral termini. No finds were present in the fills of either feature.
- 6.0.4 Alluvial deposits overlay the natural geology, indicating areas of waterlogging and possible flooding of the low-lying field.

6.1 Conclusions

- 6.1.1 No archaeological finds or features were found relating to the Anglo-Saxon causeway 500m south-west of the site, however, the exact date and origin of the ditch-like feature in the north-east end of the site is unclear.
- 6.1.2 On the basis of the watching brief, it is not considered that future groundwork will impact on any important archaeological remains.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Websites

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www.bgs.ac.uk – accessed on 08/01/13

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Environmental Assessment Services Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project and West Sussex County Council for their guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Catherine Douglas with Pip Stevenson providing secondary supervisory cover. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Neil Griffin who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	ERP12					
Identification Name and Address	Equine Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Centre, Broxmead Lane, Bolney, West Sussex, RH17 5RJ					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	526686,124086					
Geology	Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand - Sandstone and Siltstone					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5667					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Green Field		Deep Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 23-24 th Jan 2013			
Sponsor/Client	Environmental Assessment Services Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the Equine Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Centre Broxmead Lane, Bolney, West Sussex NGR: 526686,124086.</p> <p>No significant archaeological findings were made. A ditch-like feature was encountered in the north-east end of the site, but it was unclear whether this was a man-made ditch or a natural feature. Two palaeochannels were encountered in the southern end of the site.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-168094

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Equine Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Centre, Broxmead Lane, Bolney
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the Equine Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Centre Broxmead Lane, Bolney, West Sussex NGR: 526686,124086. No significant archaeological findings were made. A ditch-like feature was encountered in the north-east end of the site, but it was unclear whether this was a man-made ditch or a natural feature. Two palaeochannels were encountered in the southern end of the site.
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2013 End: 24-01-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Significant Finds	CAUSEWAY Early Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX BOLNEY Equine Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Centre, Broxmead Lane, Bolney, RH17 5RJ
Postcode	RH17 5RJ
Study area	650.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 526686 124086 50 0 50 53 25 N 000 10 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.38m Max: 4.38m

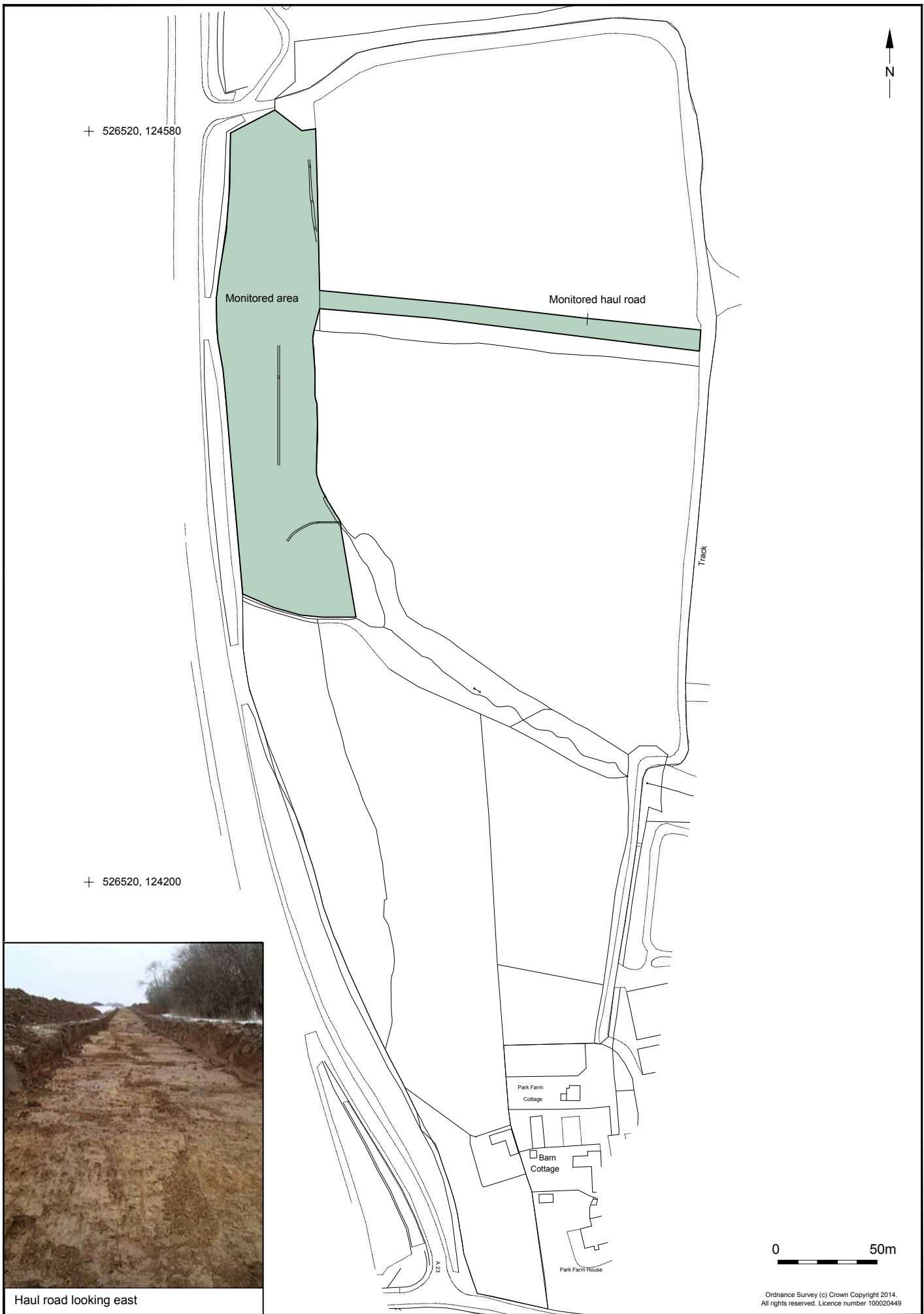
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Name of sponsor/funding body	Environmental Assessment Services Ltd

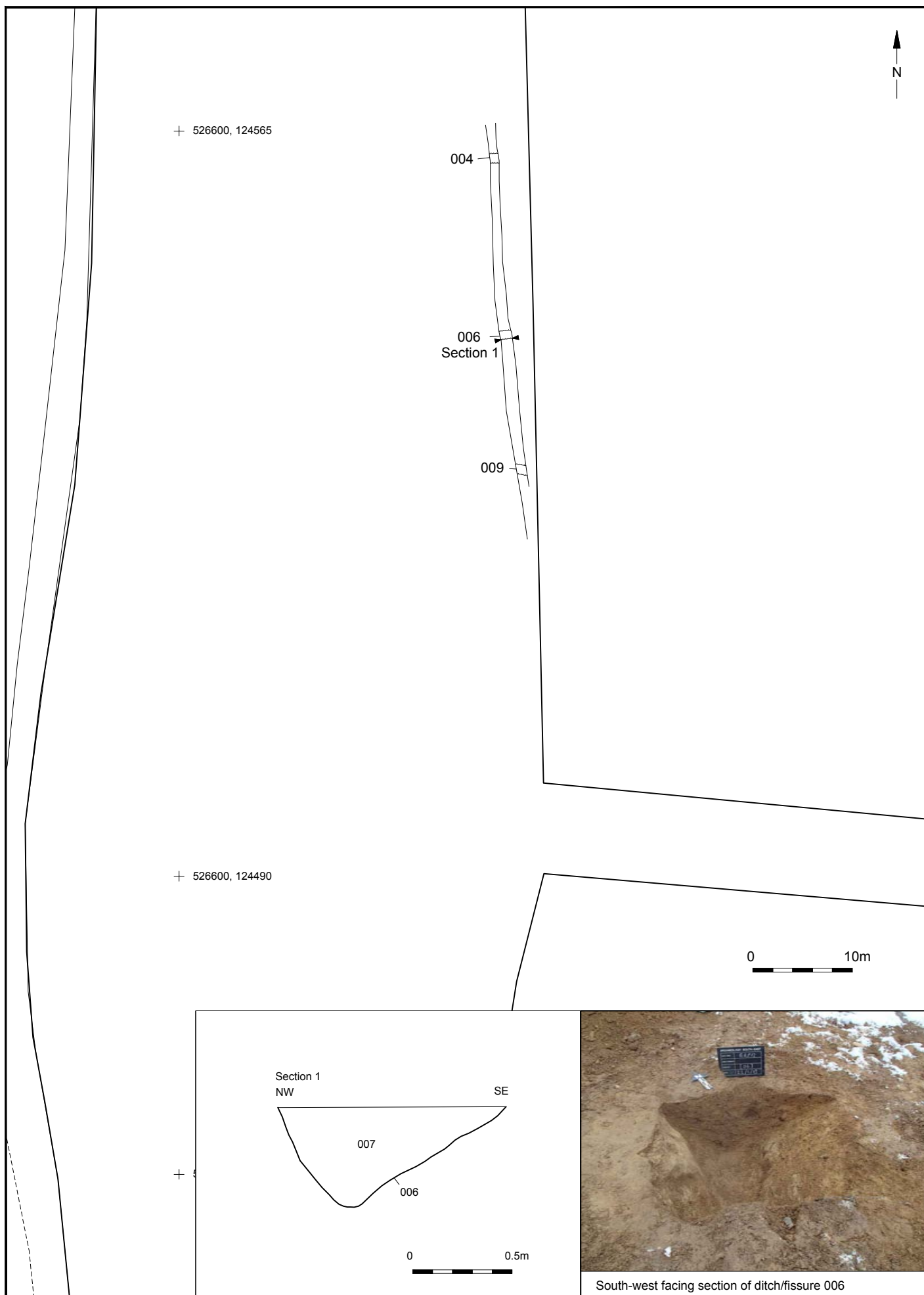
Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Unknown
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Unknown
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

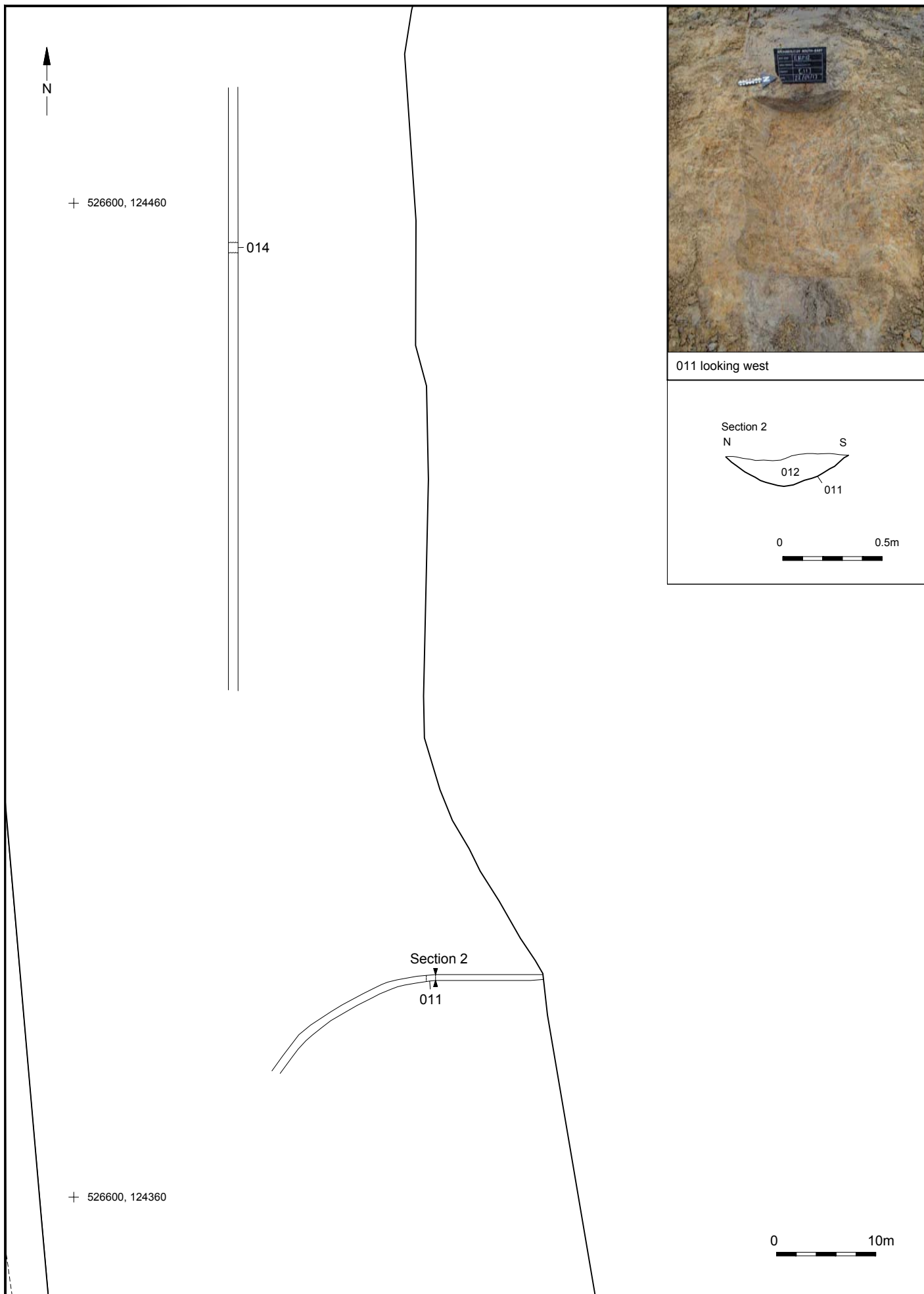
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Entered on	9 January 2014



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Project Ref: 5667	Jan 2014	Plan of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2014004	Drawn by: RMC		



© Archaeology South-East		Equine Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Centre, Broxmead, Lane, Bolney	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5667	Jan 2014	Northern area plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014004	Drawn by: RMC		



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Project Ref: 5667	Jan 2014	Southern area plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014004	Drawn by: RMC		

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